L 58/5

LEWIS AND CLARK
IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

THE LEWIS AND CLARK National Historic Trail commemorates one of our nation's grandest journeys of exploration. It is an epic that captures the imagination as much today as it did nearly 200 years ago. A significant segment of the 8000-mile Trail crosses the rugged, though handsome, northern Rocky Mountains.

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

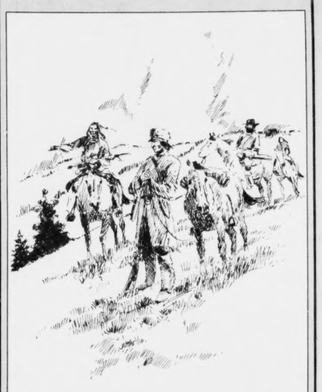
Northern Region

A13.28:

best copy available

L 58/5

LEWIS AND CLARK
IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS



THE LEWIS AND CLARK National Historic Trail commemorates one of our nation's grandest journeys of exploration. It is an epic that captures the imagination as much today as it did nearly 200 years ago. A significant segment of the 8000-mile Trail crosses the rugged, though handsome, northern Rocky Mountains.

United States Department of Agriculture — Forest Service — Northern Region

A 13.28:

In 1800, the Rocky Mountains of northwestern United States was a land known only by the Indian tribes of the region. The portion of the Rockies east of the Continental Divide became U.S. territory in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The following year, the famous military expedition of captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark set out from their winter camp near St. Louis to explore the newly acquired land. By way of the Missouri River they reached the Rocky Mountains in July 1805, and crossed the Continental Divide at present Lemhi Pass in southwestern Montana a month later. Once west of the Divide they were in foreign, unclaimed land.

This brochure tells the story of this epic journey in the Rocky Mountains. It traces the day to day decisions and challenges that confronted the 33-member expedition. The map will help you follow their route in your mind or on our modern highways.

Although some of the Lewis and Clark Trail is on private land, the surrounding National Forests provide the scenic backdrop. In other places, especially at mountain passes, the trail is on National Forest lands. The Forest Service provides interpretive signs and publications help people understand and enjoy our country's proud heritage.

NOTE: The following narrative is keyed to the map on the other side of this brochure. Campsites are identified on the map by dates, and Lewis and Clark points of interest are identified both on the map and in the narrative by corresponding numerals in parentheses, e.g., **(8)**.

ON MAY 14, 1804, forty-five men in a 55-foot keelboat and two pirogues set sail up the Missouri River from its confluence with the Mississippi. These explorers were destined to fulfill a long-held dream of Thomas Jefferson: explore the western half of the continent in search of the fabled northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson also longed to learn about the geography of that unknown land, its plants, animals, and native peoples.

Jefferson chose his private secretary, Captain Meriwether Lewis, to lead the party. In turn, Lewis chose William Clark of Louisville, Kentucky, one of his former commanding officers, to be his co-commander. Lewis spent several weeks in Philadelphia studying science, medicine, surveying, and in general, preparing for what he thought would be an 18-month trip undertaken by a corps of about a dozen men. As it turned out, there were 33 in the main party, and the Lewis and Clark Expedition – America's epic journey of discovery – took over 28 months.

THE MANDAN INDIAN VILLAGES

The first leg of the journey to the ocean took the explorers to the Mandan and Hidatsa Indian villages in present central North Dakota. Here, over 1600 miles from their point of departure, they made their first winter's headquarters and named it Fort Mandan. The following spring they sent the keelboat and several men back to St. Louis with information and the specimens they had collected to that point.

At Mandan they hired a French fur trader, Toussaint Charbonneau, and his wife, Sacagawea, as interpreters to accompany them to the ocean. Sacagawea was a Shoshone – an Indian tribe that lived in the Rocky Mountains at the headwaters of the Missouri. She had been abducted five years earlier by a band of Hidatsas and sold to Charbonneau. She would be useful when the Expedition bargained with her people for the horses that would be needed for transporting their baggage over the mountains.

In all, there were two captains, three sergeants, 23 privates, and five non-military personnel in the party that headed up the Missouri from Fort Mandan on April 7, 1805. The civilians, in addition to Charbonneau and his wife, were their infant son, Jean Baptiste, Clark's servant, York, and an interpreter/hunter by the name of George Drewyer. The 33- member expedition set out in their two *pirogues* and the six cottonwood dugouts they had built near their winter encampment.

THE GREAT FALLS

Entering present Montana on April 27, 1805, the corps passed Milk River, the largest northern tributary of the Missouri, on May 8, and came to another large northern tributary on June 2, which was equal in size to the Missouri **(1)**. For some reason the Indians at Mandan had not told them about this river, and because of its size the explorers were not sure which course to follow. After a week of investigating the two rivers, they finally determined that the south course was that of the Missouri. The river flowing from the north was given the name Maria's River in honor of Lewis' cousin, Maria Wood.

At Marias River (as it is known today) they left one of the *pirogues*, and cached a good deal of the baggage they could do without until they returned from the ocean.

On June 13, Lewis and a small party, which had gone ahead of the boats, reached the Great Falls of the Missouri **(2)**. Rather than one waterfall, as they had anticipated, there was a series of five cascades around which they would have to portage boats and baggage. Clark arrived with the boats on June 16 and found the shortest and best portage route was on the south side of the river and nearly 18 miles long.

In order to haul six dugouts and baggage around the falls, they had to built two wagons. Slabs from a 22" cottonwood tree were cut for wheels. Harnesses were made and strapped to the men who were to pull the wagons. When the wind was favorable, the sails were raised on the dugouts to help the men move the wagons across the rugged prairie. The *pirogue* was too large to portage. It was dragged ashore and left below the falls. More baggage was cached near the lower portage campsite **(3)**.

The portage required four round trips and two weeks to complete. However, the party remained at the falls for an additional week completing construction on a collapsible iron-frame boat which Lewis designed and had built at Harper's Ferry during the summer of 1803. His initial plan was to navigate the keelboat (which he had also designed) up the Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. The Expedition would then portage over the mountains to navigable waters on the western side, assemble the iron-frame boat, and sail to the ocean.

Unfortunately, it was not that simple. And now they suffered another set-back. They were unable to find the necessary pine pitch, and they did not have the proper needles to sew the hides together. The iron-frame boat had to be abandoned. In its place they built two more cottonwood dugouts **(4)**. The failure of the iron-frame boat made it necessary to cache more baggage, this time at the upper portage camp **(5)**.

The delay at the Great Falls gave the hunters and fishermen an opportunity to prepare a large quantity of dried fish, meat, and pemmican. They had learned at Fort Mandan that game would be scarce once they reached the mountains – a warning that proved only too accurate.

GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS

Upon leaving "canoe camp" just above the Great Falls, on July 15, Lewis and Clark, along with two privates, walked on shore to lighten the burden of the excessively loaded canoes. The next day they found willow shelters and horse tracks which appeared to be about 10 days old. They supposed these to be signs of the Shoshones, whom they were anxious to meet and bargain with for horses. Lewis, two privates, and York went ahead of the party in an unsuccessful attempt to find these Indians.

On July 18, Clark, with a small party, ventured out along an Indian road in search of the natives. The next day they saw where the Indians had peeled bark off pine trees. Sacagawea later informed them that her people obtained sap and the soft part of the wood and bark for food.

Meanwhile Lewis and the main party were using tow lines and poles to ascend the evermore challenging Missouri. On July 19 they reached the "most remarkable cliffs" they had yet seen. It looked as though the river had worn a passage just the width of its channel through these 1200-foot-high cliffs for a distance of three miles. Lewis called this the Gates of the Rocky Mountains **(6)**.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

On July 20, Lewis saw smoke up a creek near Gates of the Mountains **(7)**, and on the same day Clark saw smoke up Prickly Pear Creek **(8)**. The officers determined that these fires were set by Indians to alert distant tribesmen. However, the Indians kept themselves hidden.

Clark's party followed the Indian road up Prickly Pear Creek. As they walked they left items of clothes, paper and linen tape along the trail to inform the Indians that they were white men and not their enemies.

On July 22, Sacagawea, for the first time since leaving Fort Mandan, began to recognize the country **(9)**. Lewis wrote: "The Indian woman recognizes the country and assures us that this is the river on which her relations live, and that the three forks (13) are at no great distance. this piece of information has cheered the sperits of the party..."

On this same day Lewis's party reunited with Clark's **(10)**. In the four days they were out, Clark's detachment was unable to make contact with any Indians.

The following morning, Clark, with Charbonneau and three privates, again went ahead in pursuit of the Shoshones. Certain they were getting close to the Indians, Lewis ordered small U.S. flags hoisted on the canoes so the natives would understand they were not enemy Indians.

The river became ever more difficult as the days passed. With growing fatigue, the men struggled to pull the boats over rapids. Not only was the river forbidding, Lewis also noted that, "our trio of pests still invade and obstruct us on all occasions, these are the musquetoes eye knats and prickly pear, equal to any three curses that ever poor Egypt laiboured under, except the Mahometant Yoke."

On July 24, they passed a remarkable bluff of red colored earth **(11)**. Sacagawea told them this was the clay the Indians used for paint. For her people red was emblematic of peace.

On July 25 Lewis's party reached the "Little Gates of the Mountains." **(12)**, also referred to as the "second range of mountains." The Indians at Mandan had informed them of this place.

THE THREE FORKS

Clark's advance party had reached the Three Forks of the Missouri **(13)** on July 25. They saw the prairie had recently been burned, and there were horse tracks which appeared to be only a few days old. Clark left a note for Lewis telling him he was going to continue on in search of the Shoshones; if he didn't find them he would return to the Three Forks.

The main party arrived at the Three Forks on July 27, making camp where Clark had left the note. Lewis ascended a prominent rock bluff to view the area which he believed "to be an essential point in the geography of this western part of the Continent."

The officers named the east fork of the Three Forks in honor of Treasury Secretary, Albert Gallatin, the south fork in honor of Secretary of State James Madison, and the west fork in honor of President Jefferson.

THIRD RANGE OF MOUNTAINS

On July 31, the Expedition reached the third range of mountains **(14)** which forms another close canyon. They were out of fresh meat. No game was killed on this day; indeed, no buffalo had been seen since entering the mountains. Lewis wrote: "When we have plenty of fresh meat I find it impossible to make the men take any care of it or use it with the least frugallity. Tho' I expect that necessity will probably teach them this art."

On Aug. 1, Lewis, and three men, went ahead **(15)** in search of Indians. Near his camp on the morning of Aug. 3, Clark discovered Indian tracks which he followed to an elevation where the Indians had apparently spied on his camp **(16)**. But Clark found no Indians.

By now, the arduous task of pulling the eight heavily laden dugouts was taking its toll. At one place a tow line broke, at another they were dragging the vessels over rocks. Clark wrote: "The men were so much fatiegued today that they wished much that navigation was at an end that they might go by land."

Lewis reached Big Hole River **(17)** on Aug. 4, and after some investigation decided this was not the route the Expedition should follow. He left a note on a green willow for Clark, telling him not to go that way, but to wait there. By the time Clark's party arrived at the Big Hole River, a beaver had gnawed down the green willow upon which Lewis had left the note, and had taken off with it. Consequently, Clark's party began the difficult task of ascending the swift waters of that treacherous river. One boat turned over and two others filled with water before Lewis' party arrived and told them they would have to return to the Jefferson.

It had been 21 days since they left the Great Falls of the Missouri. The 33 travelers had used up enough provisions to warrant leaving one canoe on shore to be retrieved on the return journey.

THE BEAVER'S HEAD

A few miles below the mouth of Ruby River, Sacagawea recognized a prominent point of land known to her people as the Beaver's Head **(18)**. She informed the captains that they were not far from the summer retreat of her people, which, she said, was on a river beyond the mountains (Lemhi River.)

On Aug. 9, Lewis, along with three men, again set out ahead of the main party in an attempt to find the Shoshones.

About 9 1/2 miles by water from the Beaver's Head, the main party reached an island which they named 3000-Mile Island **(19)** – a reference to their distance up the Missouri River.

FOURTH RANGE OF MOUNTAINS

Lewis's party, which was following an Indian road, passed through the fourth range of mountains **(20)** on Aug. 10, and from the number of rattlesnakes about the cliffs called it "Rattlesnake Cliffs." The main party entered this canyon four days later and both Clark and Sacagawea were in danger of being struck by these serpents.

Lewis continued on the Indian road, and soon came to a fork at the head of the Jefferson River. He left a note here on a *dry* willow to inform Clark of his decision to follow the west fork.

At about 15 miles from the forks **(21)**, on Horse Prairie, Lewis finally saw a Shoshone on horseback—the first Indian the Expedition had seen in 1400 miles. The native, wary of the strangers, would not allow them to approach, and soon disappeared into the mountains.

FIFTH RANGE OF MOUNTAINS

Lewis fixed a small U.S. flag onto a pole as a symbol of peace, which was carried along as they followed the horse's tracks. They camped that night at the head of Horse Prairie. They were now about to enter the fifth range of mountains **(22)**.

The following morning they came upon recently inhabited willow lodges, and a place where the Indians had been digging roots. They continued on until they reached what Lewis described as "the most distant fountain of the waters of the Mighty Missouri **(23)** in surch of which we have spent so many toilsome days and wristless nights. Thus far I had accomplished one of those great objects on which my mind has been unalterably fixed for many years..." He then wrote that Private McNeal "exultingly stood with a foot on each side of the little rivulet and thanked his god that he had lived to bestride the mighty & heretofore deemed endless Missouri."

THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE AND THE SHOSHONE INDIANS

The four men soon crossed the Continental Divide **(24)** and began their descent on the western side of the Bitterroot Mountains along an Indian road. The next day, Aug. 13, they saw on an eminence, about a mile ahead **(25)**, two women, a man and some dogs. When they came within a half mile of the Indians, Lewis set his accouterments on the ground, unfurled the flag, and advanced alone towards them. But the wary Indians disappeared behind a hill.

Continuing on about a mile, Lewis came upon three Shoshone females. One young woman began to run, but an elderly woman and a girl of about 12 years remained. Lewis laid down his gun and approached the two. He gave them beads, moccasin awls, mirrors and some paint. At Lewis' request, the elderly woman called back the young woman. The three agreed to lead the men to their village.

After about two miles, they met 60 warriors mounted on excellent horses coming rapidly toward them. Convinced of Lewis's peaceful mission, the Indians smoked the pipe with the white men.

They then went down Lemhi River four miles to the village **(26)**. The lodges were all made of sticks because the *Pahkees* (the Indians who inhabited the area around the Great Falls of the Missouri) had raided them that spring. They took or killed 20 Shoshones, took all their skin lodges, and a great number of horses.

At the village Lewis was told that he would not be able to reach the ocean by way of Salmon River. Lewis hoped that the description of the river was exaggerated and that the Expedition could, in fact, navigate these waters.

Lewis told the Indians that another chief of the white men (Clark) was waiting at the forks of the Jefferson with baggage. He asked the Indians to come with him and bring 30 horses that would be used to transport the baggage over the Divide to their village. The Expedition would then trade with them for horses.

Many of the Indians still felt that the whites were in league with the *Pahkees* and were trying to lead them into an ambush. Nevertheless, 28 men and three women agreed to accompany Lewis back to the forks of the Jefferson. Sixteen of the Indians bravely camped with Lewis at the forks even though the promised "chief" and baggage were not to be seen.

Clark's party arrived at the forks the next day (Aug. 17). The band of Shoshones with Lewis just happened to be the band to which Sacagawea belonged. It also turned out, to the advantage of the Expedition, that Sacagawea's brother, Cameahwait, was now chief of that band.

SEARCHING FOR NAVIGABLE WATERS AND BARGAINING FOR HORSES

The camp of Aug. 17-23 was named Camp Fortunate **(27)** in commemoration of the meeting with the Shoshones. Lewis and Clark informed the Indians of their mission, and told them that once they had portaged over the Divide to the Indians' village, they would buy horses from them, if horses were needed to find a navigable river to the ocean.

On Aug. 18, Lewis bartered for two horses, which Clark and 11 men would need on their reconnaissance over the Divide to satisfy in their own minds whether the Salmon was a navigable route to the Columbia. Sacagawea and Charbonneau accompanied Clark's party to the Shoshone village to encourage the Indians to bring horses to Camp Fortunate. In the meantime, Lewis purchased another horse for the hunters. His men also purchased a horse.

On Aug. 20, Lewis selected a site three-fourths of a mile below Camp Fortunate to cache more excess baggage. And while they waited the return of the Indians who were to bring horses, they made harnesses and pack saddles for the portage.

On the same day, Clark reached the Shoshone village. He hired a Shoshone named Toby for a guide on his reconnaissance. Clark was informed of a route over the Bitterroots which the Nez Perce used to go to the Missouri **(33)**. On this route game was scarce, and the Nez Perce suffered excessively from hunger. He learned that the mountains there were broken, rocky and so thickly covered with timber that the Indians could scarcely pass. Clark reasoned that should the Salmon prove unnavigable, the party would take the Nez Perce trail, for if those Indians could cross the mountains with their women and children, certainly the Expedition could do likewise.

On Aug. 22, Sacagawea, Charbonneau, Cameahwait, and about 50 men with a number of women and children arrived back at Camp Fortunate with the horses needed to cross the Divide. At this time Lewis purchased five more horses at a cost of about six dollars worth of merchandise for each.

Clark's party reached the North Fork of the Salmon on this same day. They continued down the Salmon along a very steep and rocky mountain. As they went along they looked for trees suitable for making dugouts in case the river was navigable. They found only one such tree.

On Aug. 23, back at Camp Fortunate, Lewis had the canoes taken out of the river and sunk in a nearby pond so they wouldn't be lost by high water or burned in one of the fires the natives made on the prairies. The Indians had sold Lewis all the horses they could spare until they returned to their village.

Clark's party continued down the north side of Salmon River with great difficulty, traveling over large, sharp rocks. Still not totally convinced that the river was unnavigable, Clark had some of his party halt to hunt and fish while three men and Toby continued on with him to further examine the river. Clark finally conceded that the Indian information was accurate: the Salmon was not navigable. He marked his name on a tree at the mouth of Indian Creek **(28)**.

Before Lewis' party left Camp Fortunate, 50 men, women and children came to the camp on their way to hunt buffalo. Lewis managed to purchase three more horses and a mule from these people. Then, as much baggage as possible was packed on the horses for the portage. The Indian women carried the balance.

THREE OPTIONS

Clark sent a private on horseback with a note to Lewis stating three possible plans for their route to the ocean. The first was to procure one horse for each man, hire Toby as a guide, and proceed by land to some navigable part of the Columbia. The second plan was to divide the men into two parties, make dugouts, and have one party attempt the treacherous Salmon with whatever provisions were on hand, and have the remaining party go by horseback procuring what food they could by use of their guns, and occasionally meeting up with the party on the river. A third possibility would be to divide into two parties, have one go over the mountains to the north while the other returned to the falls of the Missouri to collect provisions, go up Sun River, and over the route used by the Hidatsas to get to the country of the Flatheads (near present Missoula) **(32)**. Both parties would meet there and continue on to the ocean.

On Aug. 26, Clark's messenger arrived at the Shoshone village with the note about the same time Lewis arrived. Clark recommended that the first plan be used, and that a horse be purchased for every member of the Expedition. The chief, however, informed Lewis that the *Pahkees* had stolen a many of their horses that spring and that they could not spare that many.

Lewis sent word for Clark to come to the village and get the 22 horses he had been able to purchase. Clark managed to purchase another horse for his pistol, 100 balls, powder, and a knife. Another horse was bought for a musket.

The explorers set out with Toby as their guide, and soon began their ascent of the North Fork. Two days later they found the mountains close to the creek on both sides. They were forced to travel along the steep mountain walls. Several of the horses slipped and injured themselves quite badly. It was also at this place **(29)** that they had the misfortune of breaking their last thermometer. It snowed about two inches, then began to rain, and then sleet.

Shortly before reaching Lost Trail Pass, Toby, for some unknown reason, led the party in the wrong direction. They encamped that evening about three miles west of the pass **(30)**, having taken a much more difficult route than necessary.

THE BITTERROOT VALLEY AND THE FLATHEAD INDIANS

On the morning of Sept. 4, everything was wet and frozen, and the ground covered with snow. They went over the crest and down the other side of the mountain range, a distance of about twelve miles, where they met a village of the Flathead nation **(31)** – 33 lodges, some 440 people, and 500 horses.

Lewis and Clark were able to purchase 13 more horses from the Flatheads. On Sept. 6, they set out down the Bitterroot River and reached the wide valley of that river on Sept. 7. They passed down the valley with no peculiar incident until they reached Lolo Creek. They named their camp Travellers Rest.

Toby informed the captains that they were only four days from the Missouri, if they should continue down the Bitterroot about nine miles to the Clark's Fork; go up that river to the Blackfoot River; and then on to the Great Falls. He also told them that they were now to leave the Bitterroot River and turn west up Lolo Creek on the Nez Perce trail **(33)**.

One of the hunters met three Flatheads up Lolo Creek and brought them back to Travellers Rest. One of them agreed to accompany the Expedition as a guide over the Bitterroots, and introduce them to his people who lived on the other side at a place where they could build dugouts and sail to the ocean.

TO THE OCEAN

On Sept. 11, the explorers set out again, and two days later reached Lolo Pass **(34)**. On the 14th they began what was to be the most difficult part of their entire journey. Horses fell on the steep trail, one nearly 100 yards down the mountain side. There was no game and they were forced to eat candles, horses, and their insipid "portable soup." There were times when they had no water. At other times there was nothing at all to eat. Poor diet caused the men to weaken and sores developed on their bodies. In spite of these hardships, they eventually reached the Nez Perce on the Clearwater River. They left their horses with these people, made another cache, built five dugouts, and navigated the Clearwater, Snake and Columbia rivers until finally, in November, they reached the Ocean.

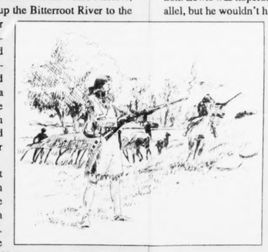
They built a winter fort near the coast and christened it "Fort Clatsop" in honor of their neighbors, the Clatsop Indians.

On March 26, 1806, the Expedition began its return up the Columbia on the homeward journey. They collected their horses from the Nez Perce, and on June 30 arrived back at Travellers Rest.

THE RETURN JOURNEY

CLARK EXPLORES YELLOWSTONE

At Travellers Rest, on July 3, the party separated. Clark with 50 horses, 20 men, Sacagawea and her baby, headed up the Bitterroot River to the place they had met the Flatheads the year before. They then crossed the Continental Divide at Gibbon's Pass **(35)**; crossed the head of the Big Hole valley, in a south-easterly direction, passing a place where the Indians had recently been digging roots **(36)**; stopped at a hot springs **(37)**; and then crossed Big Hole Pass **(38)**; and arrived at Camp Fortunate on July 8. Here they recovered their dugouts and the supplies which had been cached the year before.



After reaching the Three Forks, Sergeant John Ordway and nine men continued down the Missouri with the dugouts. Clark and the rest of the party headed east along Gallatin River on to explore the Yellowstone River. Clark crossed Clark's Pass **(39)**, and hit the Yellowstone near present Livingston **(40)**. Unfortunately all of Clark's horses, which were to be used for trade at the Mandan villages, were stolen by Crow Indians who were never seen.

LEWIS EXPLORES THE MARIAS

From Travellers Rest, Lewis and nine men headed down Bitterroot River to the Clark Fork. They crossed that river **(41)** and headed upstream to Blackfoot River **(42)**, which they ascended, following the route to the plains used by the Nez Perce on their buffalo hunts.

On July 6, they crossed "the prairie of the knobs" **(43)**, Lewis identified the path they were following as a warpath of the Hidatsas. They passed the remains of many Indian lodges, and crossed the Continental Divide at Lewis and Clark Pass **(44)**, and the next day saw the first buffalo since entering the mountains a year earlier. Two days later they reported seeing 10,000 buffalo in a 2-mile circle. They reached Sun River **(45)**, and followed it to their upper portage camp at the Great Falls.

As with Clark's horses on the Yellowstone, seven of Lewis' horses were stolen by Indians who were never seen.

On July 16, Lewis and three men set out overland from the Great Falls to explore Marias River. They wanted to see if it reached 50 degrees north, thus determining the northern boundary of the Louisiana Territory, and satisfying the conditions of the 1783 U.S. Treaty with England.

On July 18, Ordway's party arrived at the Great Falls with the boats which would be portaged to below the falls.

Also on the 18th, Lewis's party reached the Marias **(46)**. Three days later they reached the headwaters of the Marias **(47)**, and headed up the northern branch (Cut Bank River). They finally came to a place where they could see the river exiting from the mountains. Because the river did not reach 50 degrees north, Lewis named his camp "Camp Disappointment" **(48)**. It was the northern-most camp of the entire Expedition. Lewis was hopeful that the Milk River would reach the 50th Parallel, but he wouldn't have time to check it out.

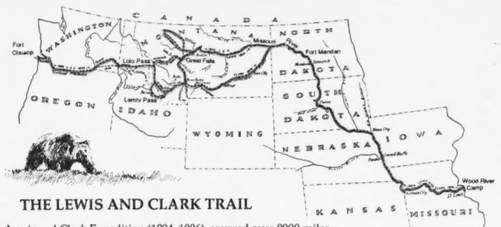
On their return to the Missouri River, Lewis' party met eight Blackfeet Indians. From them Lewis learned that a large band of their tribe was on its way to the mouth of Marias River. The Indians camped with Lewis's party on Two Medicine River were awakened when the Indians attempted to steal their horses. In the ensuing fight, two of the Indians were killed.

Lewis' party made a hasty retreat to the Missouri River where they had the good fortune of meeting the boats coming down the river from the Great Falls **(50)**. They abandoned the horses, boarded the boats, and sailed down to the mouth of Marias, picked up the items they had cached the year before, and took off before any Blackfeet arrived.

THE RENDEZVOUS AND THE HOME STRETCH

Lewis and Clark met again on the Missouri River, Aug. 12, about 125 miles below the mouth of the Yellowstone. They left the Charbonneau family at the Mandans, and continued on down the Missouri, arriving at St. Louis on Sept. 23. They had traveled over 8000 miles and had successfully accomplished their mission. They found the most practicable route to the ocean; discovered numerous plants and animals for science; made friends with many Indian tribes; and, for the first time, charted a route across the trans-Mississippi West.

R1-90-7



THE LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL

The Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806) covered over 8000 miles. Beginning near St. Louis, the explorers traveled up the Missouri River to the Rocky Mountains, crossed the Continental Divide, and continued on to the Pacific Ocean. Highlighted on the Lewis and Clark Trail map above is the section of the Rocky Mountains described in this brochure.

LEWIS AND CLARK PLACES TO VISIT IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA

Fort Benton, Montana - - - Bureau of Land Management Visitor Center

Great Falls, Montana - - - Giant Springs, Black Eagle Falls, Rainbow Falls, Crooked Falls, Ryan Dam

Great Falls, Montana - - -The Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center (proposed)

Off I-15, 22 miles north of Helena, Montana - - - Gates of the Mountains

Helena, Montana - - - House of Representatives and House Lobby, Montana Capitol

Helena, Montana - - - Montana Historical Society Museum

Three Forks, Montana - - - Headwaters State Park

State Highway 41 between Twin Bridges and Dillon, Montana - - - Beaverhead Rock

Off Route 324 south of Dillon, Montana - - - Lemhi Pass, Forest Service signs

Lolo Pass on U.S. 12 - - - Forest Service Lolo Pass Visitor Center

Missoula, Montana - - - Missoula County Courthouse, murals by E.S. Paxson

CANADA

MONTANA

48: CAMP DISAPPOINTMENT 7/22–25/06 L

47: HEADWATERS OF MARIAS 7/21/06 L

49: TWO MEDICINE FIGHT SITE 7/26/06 L

46: BACK AT MARIAS RIVER 6/5/05 L – 6/7/05 L

50: LEWIS MEETS BOATS 6/5/05 C

1: MARIAS RIVER 6/2–11/05

3: LOWER PORTAGE CAMP 6/15/05 C

2: THE GREAT FALLS 6/13–15/05 & 6/28–30/05 C

5: UPPER PORTAGE CAMP 6/17/05 C

4: CANOE CAMP 7/10–15/05

45: AT SUN RIVER 7/8/06 L

44: LEWIS AND CLARK PASS 7/5/06 L

43: PRAIRIE OF THE KNOBS 7/6/06 L

41: LEWIS CROSSES THE CLARK FORK 7/3/05 L

33: NEZ PERCE TRAIL 9/12/05 – 9/11/05

42: UP THE BLACKFOOT RIVER 6/30–7/2/06

32: TRAVELLER'S REST 9/9,10/05

34: LOLO PASS 9/15/05 – 6/28/06 – 9/13/05

6: GATES OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS 7/18/05 C

7: SMOKE SIGNALS 7/19/05 L

9: SACAGAWEA RECOGNIZES THE COUNTRY 7/20/05 L

8: UPPER PRICKLY PEAR CREEK 7/20/05 C – 7/21/05 L

10: THE TWO PARTIES REUNITE 7/22/05

11: CRIMSON BLUFF 7/24/05

12: LITTLE GATES OF MOUNTAINS 7/25/05

13: THREE FORKS 7/26–29/05

15: LEWIS GOES AHEAD 7/30/05 L

14: THIRD RANGE OF MOUNTAINS 7/31/05

16: INDIAN TRACKS 8/1/05 L

39: CLARK'S PASS 8/2/05 L

40: AT THE YELLOWSTONE 8/4/05 L

31: MEETING THE FLATHEADS 9/6/05

30: ON THE WRONG TRAIL 9/3/05

35: GIBBONS PASS 9/4,5/05 – 7/5/06 C

29: LAST THERMOMETER BREAKS 9/2/05

36: SHOSHONES DIG ROOTS 7/6/06 C

17: BIG HOLE RIVER 8/3/05 L – 8/5/05 C

37: HOT SPRINGS 7/7/06 C

38: BIG HOLE PASS 8/7/05

19: 3,000 MILE ISLAND 8/9/05 C

18: THE BEAVER'S HEAD 8/10/05 C

28: CLARK CARVES HIS NAME 8/22/05 C – 8/31/05

26: A SHOSHONE VILLAGE 8/21,25/05 C

21: A SHOSHONE SPOTTED 8/30/05

22: FIFTH RANGE OF MTNS. 8/11/05

25: INDIANS SIGHTED 8/18/05 C

24: LEMHI PASS 8/15/05 L

20: FOURTH RANGE OF MOUNTAINS 8/16/05 C

27: CAMP FORTUNATE 8/17–23/05 & 7/8,9/06 C

23: MOST DISTANT FOUNTAIN OF THE MISSOURI 8/25/05 L

LEWIS AND CLARK IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

National Forests
National Parks
Indian Reservations
Regional Headquarters
Forest Supervisors' Headquarters
District Ranger Station
City or Town

Campsites Along the Route West
Campsites Along the Return Route East

International Boundary
State Boundary
Major Routes
Urban Areas

Scale: 1: 1,000,000 — 10 0 10 20 30 40 50 Statute Miles

This detailed map/brochure provides an historically accurate account of the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the Rocky Mountains of western Montana and east-central Idaho. Both the westward (1805) and eastward (1806) journeys are traced here. Over one hundred twenty-five Lewis and Clark campsites along with fifty points of interest are identified on this map and keyed to the narrative on the back. Campsites identified by only a date were shared by Lewis and Clark within the time indicated. Where the officers were separated, their campsites are identified with the date plus L for Lewis or C for Clark. The completion of Lewis and Clark's journey through the Rocky Mountains from Lolo Pass to the Weippe Prairie of Idaho (indicated on this map) is told in detail on the Forest Service's brochure *Following Lewis and Clark across the Clearwater National Forest*. Forest Service maps, brochures and general information about the forests are available at Forest Service offices and visitor centers.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
Research and design by Robert A. Saindon • Illustrated by Robert F. Morgan

LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1990 - 795-203